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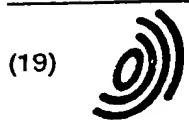
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European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 918 244 A1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

published in accordance with Art. 158(3) EPC

(43) Date of publication:

26.05.1999 Bulletin 1999/21

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: G02F 1/01

(21) Application number: 97934767.1

(86) International application number:
PCT/JP97/02808

(22) Date of filing: 11.08.1997

(87) International publication number:
WO 98/07064 (19.02.1998 Gazette 1998/07)

(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB IT NL SE

(30) Priority: 12.08.1996 JP 212323/96
17.09.1996 JP 244966/96

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(54) GRATING ELEMENT, LIGHT WAVELENGTH SELECTION UTILIZING THE SAME, AND OPTICAL SIGNAL TRANSMITTING SYSTEM

(57) A core section (10a) is formed in an optical fiber (10) made of a glass material and, electrodes (14a and 14b) are inserted into the clad section (10b) of the fiber (10). When the core section (10a) is irradiated with ultraviolet rays in prescribed intensity patterns while a high voltage is applied to the electrodes (14a and 14b), a grating section (16) in which non linear areas (16a) and normal areas (16b) are alternately formed is formed in the section (10a). The characteristics of the grating

section (16) can be changed by utilizing an electrooptic effect by impressing a prescribed electric field upon the section (16) through the electrodes (14a and 14b). A grating element constituted in such a way can be utilized as an optical functional element, such as the wavelength switch, because the Bragg wavelength of the element changes when a voltage is applied.

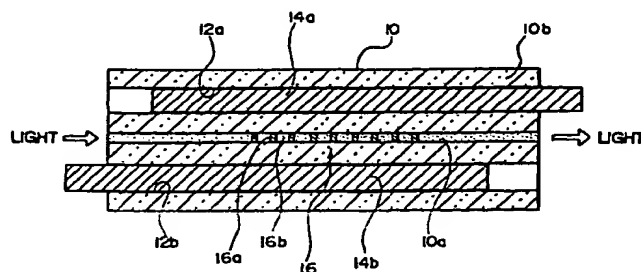


Fig. 1

Description

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to a method of manufacturing a grating element having a linear (first-order) electro-optic effect, and to a grating element. The present invention also relates to a light wavelength selective device and method and to an optical signal transmitting system utilizing a grating section to which optical non-linearity is periodically imparted. More specifically, the present invention relates to a grating element utilizing a glass fiber.

BACKGROUND ART

[0002] With the recent progress in telecommunication technologies utilizing computers and the like, there is an ever-increasing need for large-volume information transmission. One of the most important means for transmitting such large-volume information are optical fibers. In optical fiber based transmission, optical signals are transmitted through an optical fiber. The optical fiber is formed of a glass material because of its advantages such as transmitting a wide range of wavelengths, having a high transparency, suited for manufacturing a long fiber, and being cost-effective.

[0003] Construction of an optical fiber transmission system requires elements such as a light source, an optical receiver, an optical signal generator, an optical switch/coupler, and an optical connector for connection with a transmission optical fiber. The electro-optic effect (optical non-linearity) is utilized especially for optical switching elements such as the optical signal generator and the optical switch. The optical non-linearity is generated by non-linear polarization induced in material by light (electromagnetic waves), and intensity and direction of light transmitted through the optically non-linear material is changed by controlling factors such as electric field strength applied to the material. By use of such optical non-linearity, various optical functional elements such as optical switching elements are formed.

[0004] Further, the light introduced to the optical fiber is switched on/off by such optical functional elements based on the information to be transmitted, to thereby achieve light modulation. The optical signals are then demodulated at the receiving side, completing transmission of information through the optical fiber.

[0005] A plurality of information items can simultaneously be transmitted if light beams of a plurality of wavelengths are guided through the optical fiber. If information is transmitted at different points in time, distinction between the different information items can surely be made by utilizing different wavelengths. Therefore, a need exists for guiding light beams of a plurality of wavelengths through a single optical fiber.

[0006] In conventional optical transmission systems, a wavelength of light is basically selected by an optical fil-

ter, and isolation of a prescribed wavelength requires a separate filter. A conventional optical switch is designed to switch on or off a light beam of a single wavelength, but not to switch light beams of a plurality of wavelengths. Therefore, if light of a plurality of wavelengths is introduced, wavelength switches are provided for the respective wavelengths.

[0007] However, for transmitting light of a plurality of wavelengths through a single optical fiber, or for the means for collectively handling and switching light beams of a plurality of wavelengths, selecting and handling light beams of a plurality of wavelengths would be extremely advantageous and contribute to realizing a simplified system. Therefore, an optical functional element which allows selecting and handling light of a plurality of wavelengths is desired.

[0008] Crystalline material such as LiNbO_3 and BaTiO_3 are used as the optically non-linear material for implementing such optical functional element because currently the crystalline material is the only material that presents sufficient optical non-linearity.

[0009] Meanwhile, it is desirable to use glass material to form optical functional elements such as optical switches in terms of a stable connection with a glass optical fiber, low loss of the transmitted light, low cost, and a wide range of transmitting wavelengths. However, glass material basically does not have optical non-linearity and, therefore, cannot be used for this purpose.

[0010] Attempts to introduce optical non-linearity to a glass material have been made. For example, UV-excited poling carried out by irradiating a glass material with ultra-violet radiation while applying a high electric field of approximately 10^6 V/cm is disclosed in "ELECTRONICS LETTERS 30th," March 1995, Vol. 31, No. 7, pp. 573-574.

[0011] UV-excited poling is believed to provide glass material with similar optical non-linearity to crystalline material, allowing the glass material to be suitably employed in optical functional elements.

[0012] A grating element is a known element utilizing an optical fiber having a core where portions with different refractive indices are formed. In a grating element, wavelengths of transmitted light and reflected light are varied with intervals in the grating. The grating element is used for devices such as temperature sensors.

[0013] Proposals have been made to form grating elements by irradiating a glass optical fiber having a core doped with germanium (Ge) with ultra-violet rays in a prescribed intensity pattern. According to this method, prescribed ultra-violet radiation is irradiated to change the refractive index at the irradiated portion, and thereby form a refractive index grating in the optical fiber. Fabrication of such grating element is proposed in, for example, JP-T2-62-500052.

[0014] As described above, the UV-excited poling method conventionally proposed can impart non-linearity to the glass material. However, this method imparts optical non-linearity only to a certain range of the optical

fiber core, and therefore it only suggests possibility of its application as an optical functional element.

[0015] In addition, the above conventional grating element has a grating which exhibits change in refractive index. As a result, such a grating element does not have optical non-linearity and cannot form a variety of elements that utilize electro-optical effects.

[0016] Fabrication of grating elements by utilizing UV-excited poling is proposed in "Optical Fiber Communication Conference; OFC '95 Postdeadline Paper PD6," published in 1995. This document, however, only makes a general proposal on forming a grating element by utilizing UV-excited poling, and does not specifically disclose the formation.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

[0017] The present invention has been made in view of the above-described problems and aims to provide a method of manufacturing a grating element utilizing glass material suitable for use in optical switches, and such grating element and a wavelength switch.

[0018] The present invention also aims to provide a wavelength selective device and method and an optical transmission system that employ glass material and allow a easy selection to be made among light beams of a plurality of wavelengths.

[0019] In a method of manufacturing a grating element according to the present invention, a poling process is performed by irradiating a plurality of regions of a glass optical waveguide with ultra-violet radiation at prescribed intervals while applying a prescribed electric field to change refractive indices at the UV-irradiated regions and impart optical non-linearity to the regions, thereby periodically forming regions with optical non-linearity at the optical waveguide to manufacture a grating element.

[0020] By thus irradiating ultra-violet light and applying an electric field, a UV-excited poling process can be performed to change the refractive index of glass material and impart optical non-linearity to these regions. Since irradiation of ultraviolet radiation is directed to a plurality of regions at intervals, optically non-linear regions can be repetitively formed at the optical waveguide. As a result, when light is transmitted through the thus obtained optical waveguide, the Bragg reflection occurs due to different refractive indices at the optically non-linear regions and the other regions, to thereby block transmittance of light of the Bragg wavelength. In addition, because of the imparted optical non-linearity, the Bragg wavelength is shifted by application of a voltage. The thus obtained grating element can be advantageously used as a wavelength switch or a light selective device.

[0021] According to the present invention, the glass optical waveguide is a core section surrounded by a clad section of a glass optical fiber, and the above poling process is performed by irradiating the core section

with ultra-violet rays in a periodic intensity in a direction perpendicular to light propagation.

[0022] Thus, a grating which exhibits the Bragg reflection can be formed at the core section.

[0023] A feature of the grating element according to the present invention lies in that optical non-linearity of 1 pm/V or greater is periodically imparted as an electro-optic coefficient to the core section of the glass optical fiber at intervals.

[0024] Another feature of the grating element according to the present invention lies in that a pair of electrodes are formed sandwiching the core section of the optical fiber.

[0025] A wavelength switch according to the present invention can apply a prescribed voltage across the pair of the electrodes of the grating element and control such application of the voltage across the electrodes to switch on/off the light propagating through the core section.

[0026] In such a grating element, the refractive index of the region with the imparted optical non-linearity varies with application of a voltage. Since the regions provided with optical non-linearity are alternately formed, the light transmitted through the core section undergoes the Bragg reflection. As a result, the Bragg wavelength of the transmitted light is changed by application of a voltage. Especially, according to the present invention, the electro-optic coefficient is as high as 1 pm/V, so that a significant shift in the Bragg wavelength can be achieved by applying a practical voltage. Consequently, this grating element can control transmitted light by application of a voltage, suited for use as a wavelength switch.

[0027] Especially, the grating element and the wavelength switch of the present invention are obtained by imparting optical non-linearity to a glass optical fiber, providing such favorable effects as easy connection with an optical fiber, good transmittance of a wide range of wavelengths, and low cost.

[0028] The grating element according to the present invention includes a core section connected to an end of the grating element for guiding light propagating there-through, and a connector section having one end connected to the pair of electrodes and the other end including a connecting electrode section outwardly extending in a radial direction.

[0029] Use of such a connector section allows easy application of a voltage across the electrodes which are included in the grating element. Since the propagation of light through the core section can be maintained, a wavelength switch and an optical fiber can be easily connected. Preferably, the connector section is formed of glass.

[0030] In a wavelength selective device according to the present invention, optical non-linearity is periodically imparted as an electro-optical coefficient to a glass fiber core section at prescribed intervals. The glass fiber includes a wavelength selective element where a pair of

electrodes are formed sandwiching the core section, and voltage adjusting means for applying a desired voltage in an adjustable manner to the pair of electrodes in the wavelength selective element. In the device, light of a plurality of wavelengths is introduced to the wavelength selective element, and then light of a prescribed wavelength is supplied therefrom.

[0031] According to a wavelength selecting method of the present invention, optical non-linearity is periodically imparted as an electro-optic coefficient to a core section of a glass optical fiber at prescribed intervals, in which light beams of a plurality of wavelengths are introduced to a wavelength selective element having a pair of electrodes sandwiching the core section, and a voltage corresponding to the wavelength of the light to be selected is applied across the pair of electrodes of the wavelength selective element, to thereby obtain light of the selected wavelength.

[0032] In addition, according to an optical signal transmission system of the present invention, a plurality of optical signals obtained by modulating light beams of a plurality of wavelengths are transmitted through a single optical fiber, and the above wavelength selective device selects an optical signal of a specific wavelength from the plurality of optical signals thus transmitted through the fiber, followed by demodulation of the thus derived optical signal.

[0033] According to the present invention, the voltage across the electrodes of the wavelength selective element is adjusted by voltage adjusting means, to thereby change the refractive index of the portion of the core section having the imparted optical non-linearity. The regions with optical non-linearity are periodically (alternately) formed, to thereby cause the Bragg reflection of the light transmitting through the core section. As a result, the Bragg wavelength of the transmitted (or reflected) light is altered by application of a voltage, so that light of a desired wavelength can be selected by adjusting the applied voltage.

[0034] Further, according to the present invention, the wavelength selective element is made of a glass material. Such wavelength selective element can be formed by UV-excited poling. More specifically, UV-excited poling process can be performed by irradiating ultra-violet rays and applying an electric field, to thereby alter the refractive index of the glass material and impart optical non-linearity to the irradiated region. By irradiating a plurality of regions at intervals with ultra-violet rays, optically non-linear regions can be periodically formed at an optical waveguide.

[0035] According to the present invention, the optical waveguide is a core section surrounded by a clad section of a glass optical fiber, and the above poling process can be performed by irradiating the core section with ultra-violet rays in a periodic intensity in a direction perpendicular to the propagating direction of the light.

[0036] Preferably, the periodically imparted optical nonlinearity has an electro-optic coefficient of at least 1

pm/V.

[0037] The wavelength selective element of the present invention is obtained by imparting optical non-linearity to the glass optical fiber, providing such favorable effects as being easily connected with the optical fiber, transmitting light of a wide range of wavelengths, and inexpensively fabricated.

[0038] With use of such wavelength selective element, light of a predetermined wavelength can be easily selected, leading to an easy construction of a multiplexed optical communication system utilizing a plurality of wavelengths.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0039]

Fig. 1 is a front sectional view showing a structure of a grating element (wavelength selective element) according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a side view showing a structure of the wavelength selective element of the embodiment.

Fig. 3 is a view showing a structure of a phase mask.

Fig. 4 is a graph showing frequency characteristics of transmitted light varied with a change in an applied voltage.

Fig. 5 is a graph showing the Bragg wavelength varied with a change in an applied voltage.

Fig. 6 is a graph showing variation in overlap integration with a change in an applied voltage.

Fig. 7 is a view showing an example of a connector.

Fig. 8 is a view showing another example of a connector.

Fig. 9 is a view showing a still another example of a connector.

Fig. 10 is a diagram showing a configuration of an optical signal transmitting system.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

[0040] A preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to the drawings.

[0041] Figs. 1 and 2 are views schematically showing a structure of a grating element (which is a wavelength selective element in this example) according to the present invention. An optical fiber 10 formed of cylindrically drawn silica glass (SiO_2) and doped with, for example, germanium (Ge) includes a light conducting core section 10a located at its central portion where refractive index is adjusted, and a clad section 10b located at the surrounding portion.

[0042] A pair of side holes 12a and 12b are formed in the clad section 10b, and aluminum wire electrodes 14a and 14b are inserted therein. As can be seen from the figures, the electrodes 14a and 14b are provided oppos-

ing to each other with the core section 10a interposed therebetween.

[0043] As shown in Fig. 1, the core section 10a includes a grating section 16 formed by non-linearity regions 16a, having a second-order optical non-linearity and a different refractive index and formed with a fixed width and fixed intervals therebetween in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction, and normal regions 16b. As a result, light transmitted through the core section 10a in the longitudinal direction is reflected and interfered by the grating section 16.

[0044] Especially, according to this embodiment, the electrodes 14a and 14b are provided to which a desired voltage can be applied. The non-linearity region 16a of the grating section 16 has optical non-linearity. Therefore, the refractive index is changed in accordance with the voltage applied between the electrodes 14a and 14b.

[0045] Accordingly, in the wavelength selective element of this embodiment, characteristics of the grating section 16 can be altered by controlling the voltage applied between the electrodes 14a and 14b.

[Manufacturing Method]

[0046] Such wavelength selective element is manufactured as follows. First, an optical fiber having the electrodes 14a and 14b inserted into the side holes 12a and 12b is prepared. The optical fiber has a diameter of 200 μm , the side holes 12a and 12b have a diameter of approximately 40 μm , the electrodes 14a and 14b have a diameter of approximately 40 μm and a length of approximately 4 cm and are located with a distance of 8-10 μm therebetween, and the optical fiber has a length of about 10 cm. As shown in Fig. 1, the electrodes 14a and 14b are inserted into the side holes 12a and 12b, respectively, from different ends, and each of the electrodes has an end protruding only in a direction different from each other, so as to prevent electric discharge between the electrodes. The dielectric breakdown voltage of air is about 10^4V/cm , and application of an electric field greater than this voltage to the core section 10a requires a longest possible path for air to intervene. The structure of the electrodes 14a and 14b shown in Fig. 1 allows to achieve application of an electric field as high as approximately 10^6V/cm to the core section 10a.

[0047] A voltage of approximately 800 V is applied between the electrodes 14a and 14b, to thereby apply an electric field of approximately 10^6 V/cm to the core section 10a. Under such circumstances, the core section 10a is irradiated with ultraviolet radiation using a pulsed ArF excimer laser (193 nm wavelength). The laser has an energy density of approximately 36 mJ/cm^2 and a pulse repetition rate of approximately 10 pps (pulse/second), and irradiating for a period of approximately 10-30 minutes.

[0048] The laser irradiates the optical fiber with a

phase mask interposed therebetween. An exemplary structure of the phase mask is shown in Fig. 3. As shown, a multiplicity of grooves 18a are formed at one side of a substrate 18 in the form of a plate. The grooves 18a are formed in parallel at fixed intervals. As a result, parallel rays transmitting the substrate 18 in the direction perpendicular to its surface cause a predetermined diffraction, with the light intensity repeating at prescribed intervals. In other words, a fringe pattern (a zebra pattern) is formed where irradiated regions and non-irradiated regions are periodically repeated. In this example, laser irradiates the optical fiber at intervals of 1.05 μm . The substrate 18 of the phase mask is formed of silica glass or the like that allows transmission of ultra-violet rays.

[0049] The above-described application of an electric field is continued during laser irradiation. The optical fiber is formed so that only the core section 10a absorbs ultra-violet radiation due to doping of a prescribed element (such as germanium). As a result, the core section 10a is subjected to UV-excited poling at intervals of 1.05 μm .

[0050] Periodical increase in refractive index induced by UV-excited poling with use of the phase mask leads to a decrease in transmitted light (increase in reflected light) at the wavelength corresponding to the change in refractive index. The intensity of transmitted light is measured in real time at the side opposite the side where light is incident on the core section 10a, while UV-excited poling is continued for a desired time period (30 minutes in this example).

[0051] Fig. 4 shows results obtained by guiding light through the thus obtained wavelength selective element and measuring dependency of exiting light intensity on wavelength (spectrum of transmitted light). The wavelength selective element according to this embodiment includes the electrodes 14a and 14b with the core section 10 interposed therebetween for the purpose of UV-excited poling. A desired electric field can be applied to the core section 10a by applying a voltage between these electrodes 14a and 14b.

[0052] Fig. 4A shows the results obtained when voltages of 0 V, -150 V, -300 V are applied between the electrodes 14a and 14b, while Fig. 4B shows the results obtained when voltages of 0 V, 150 V, 300 V are applied. It should be noted that the sign of the voltage is defined here as the polarity opposite to that of the poling electric field being positive.

[0053] As shown in the above figures, light transmission intensity is decreased at a particular wavelength in this wavelength selective element because grating with an interval of 1.05 μm causes the Bragg reflection in which light of the Bragg wavelength (1.53 μm in this example) is reflected.

[0054] Application of a voltage causes a shift in the Bragg wavelength, and the Bragg reflection increases or decreases in accordance with application of a voltage because the core section 10a of the UV-irradiated

region attains non-linearity due to UV-excited poling to generate linear electro-optic effects and cause a change in effective refractive index of the guided light.

[0055] Especially, when a negative voltage is applied, a greater attenuation at the Bragg frequency is caused by the application of the voltage, exhibiting a favorable reflection properties.

[0056] The change Δn_{EO} in the refractive index induced by the electro-optic effect can be expressed as follows:

$$\Delta n_{EO} = -n^3 r E / 2$$

where n is the refractive index of the fiber at the core region, r is the linear electro-optic coefficient, and E is the electric field strength.

[0057] The Bragg wavelength λ_B can be expressed as follows:

$$\lambda_B = 2\Lambda n_{eff}$$

where Λ is the pitch in the grating. In the concept based on coupling of forward and backward (reflected) guided light by the grating, the peak reflectance R can be expressed as:

$$R = \tanh^2(\kappa L)$$

3dB bandwidth $\Delta\lambda$ can be expressed as:

$$\Delta\lambda = \lambda_B \{ \pi^2 + (\kappa L)^2 \}^{0.5} / 2n_{eff} L$$

Where κ is the coupling coefficient of the forward and backward (reflected) guided light, which can be expressed as:

$$\kappa = \pi n_c \delta n \eta / \lambda_B n_{eff}$$

where L is the length of the grating section.

[0058] In the above equation, n_{eff} is the effective refractive index of the guided light in the grating section, n_c is the refractive index of the clad section, δn is the magnitude of the change in refractive index forming a periodic structure, and η is the overlap integral in the forward and backward propagation modes.

[0059] The values of n_{eff} , δn , and η vary with the value of Δn_{EO} . Fig. 5 shows the results obtained by examining the relation between the change Δn_{EO} in the effective refractive index and the applied voltage based on the relationship between the change in the Bragg wavelength and the applied voltage shown in Fig. 4. As shown, the effective refractive index n_{eff} has a slope of $-5.7 \times 10^{-7}/V$ with respect to the change in the applied voltage, showing a linear change. This indicates that application of a voltage causes a drop in effective refractive index, leading to a shift in the Bragg wavelength toward shorter wavelengths. The change $\Delta\lambda_B$ in the Bragg wavelength relative to the electric field $1V/\mu m$

is approximately 0.01nm.

[0060] As described above, a linear relationship exists between the applied voltage and the effective refractive index, demonstrating that Pockels effect (linear electro-optic effect) based on second-order optical non-linearity is achieved.

[0061] Fig. 6 shows the relationship between the applied voltage and the value of $\delta n \eta$. As can be seen from the graph, the value of $\delta n \eta$ has a slope of -3.6×10^{-6} with respect to the change in the applied voltage, which also proves the achievement of linear electro-optic effect.

[0062] As described above, in the wavelength selective element of this embodiment, reflection at the Bragg wavelength occurs in a narrow bandwidth as shown in Fig. 4. Especially, as shown in Fig. 4A, when the applied voltage is negative, the bandwidth is extremely narrow, with a minimum value of 0.04 nm. The Bragg wavelength greatly varies with application of a voltage. That is, as shown in Fig. 4A, an ON/OFF extinction ratio of approximately 10 dB can be obtained for the central wavelength $1.5299 \mu m$ by altering the applied voltage from 0 V to -300 V. As a result, the wavelength selective element of this embodiment makes it possible to select a light beam of a particular wavelength from a plurality of light beams of a plurality of wavelengths, to select and transmit a light beam of a particular wavelength, and to prohibit transmission of a light beam of a particular wavelength. Therefore, this wavelength selective element can function as an optical wavelength switch or an optical modulator.

[0063] Thus, light beams of prescribed wavelengths can be switched by applying a voltage to shift the Bragg wavelength and control whether or not to transmit laser light beams. Especially, the wavelength selective element of this embodiment is formed by a glass optical fiber, allowing an easy connection with a general optical fiber, and a sufficient light transmittance in the element can be maintained.

[0064] The Bragg wavelength can be shifted in a plurality of stages by applying a plurality of voltages, to thereby control the wavelength to transmit and achieve a function of a wavelength selective element.

[0065] Further, according to this embodiment, the interval in the grating can be easily adjusted by the phase mask, making it easy to obtain a wavelength selective element with a desired Bragg wavelength.

[0066] As shown in Fig. 1, since the electrodes 14a and 14b of the wavelength selective element of this embodiment include a protruded portion, a general optical fiber could not easily be connected to such an element with protruded electrodes. Therefore, it is preferable to provide a special connector that can receive the electrodes 14a and 14b and make a favorable connection with the core section 10a. For example, referring to Fig. 7, a connector having concave portions 30a and 30b for receiving the electrodes 14a and 14b can be used. If such connector is used, holes 32a and

32b may be provided in a radial direction reaching the concave portions 30a and 30b from the outside, to thereby make an electrical connection between the electrodes 14a and 14b and an external power supply. A core section 34 serving as an optical waveguide is provided also in the connector. Although the electrodes 14a and 14b protrude from the grating element in different directions as shown in Fig. 1, the electrodes 14a and 14b are movable within the side holes 12a and 12b, and can therefore be moved after the poling process.

[0067] Operation of the above-described wavelength switch or the like does not require application of a very high voltage, so a lead wire can be easily connected. More specifically, a direct electrical connection can be made using the protruding electrodes 14a and 14b for UV-excited poling, and, after the poling process, the electrodes 14a and 14b are moved and worked to a prescribed shape before attaching the connector.

[0068] The protrusion of the electrodes 14a and 14b of the wavelength selective element can be polished to a flat surface so as to connect to a connector with a flat surface. For this option, referring to Fig. 8, a core section 40 and electrodes 42a and 42b are formed at the polished surface of the connector. The electrodes 42a and 42b have outwardly extending terminal sections 44a and 44b, which can be used for an electrical connection with the external power supply.

[0069] The connector has a configuration such that an optical fiber can be connected also at the side opposite to the side receiving the wavelength selective element, so that the wavelength selective element can be connected to another optical fiber through this connector. The electrical connection with the electrodes 14a and 14b can be easily made using holes 32a and 32b and terminals 44a and 44b.

[0070] Referring to Fig. 9, holes 50a and 50b can be provided in the waveguide selective element to make a direct electrical connection to the electrodes 14a and 14b. For this option, the end surface of the waveguide selective element is polished so as to directly connect to another optical fiber, as in the option described with reference to Fig. 8.

[0071] The above-described construction can secure the connection between the electrodes 14a and 14b and the external power supply.

[Overall Configuration of the System]

[0072] Fig. 10 shows a configuration of an optical signal transmission system. Each laser light source 20 is responsive to an input signal to provide a modulated signal. The laser light sources 20 each output an optical signal of a fixed wavelength different from each other. A plurality of optical signals of different wavelengths supplied from the plurality of laser light sources 20 are introduced to and multiplexed by an optical multiplexer circuit 22, and then transmitted through a single optical fiber 24.

[0073] The optical fiber 24 is connected to an optical branching circuit 26, which receives optical signals transmitted thereto through the optical fiber. The optical branching circuit 26 divides the input signals by a prescribed number, and supplies them to wavelength selective devices 28 at a plurality of receiving terminals.

[0074] Wavelength selective devices 28 are each connected to a voltage adjusting circuit 30 and an optical signal at a prescribed wavelength is selected in accordance with the voltage applied by the voltage adjusting circuit 30. More specifically, the wavelength selective device 28 has the above-described wavelength selective element so as to control the wavelength of the light to transmit by a change in voltage across the pair of electrodes of the wavelength selective element. As a result, an optical signal at a prescribed wavelength can be selected by adjusting the voltage output from the voltage adjusting circuit 30. The optical signal at the wavelength selected by the wavelength selective device 28 is supplied to a receiving circuit 32, which demodulates the signal.

[0075] As described above, because the present system includes a wavelength selective device 28, an optical signal modulated by any of the laser light sources 20 can be selected and demodulated by controlling the output voltage of the voltage adjusting circuit 30. Consequently, a signal can be efficiently selected at each terminal in the multiplexed optical transmission system. In addition, this wavelength selective device formed of glass material is inexpensive and very easily connected with an optical fiber. Thus, an efficient selection of an optical signal can be made at each of the receiving terminals.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

[0076] An optical functional element such as an optical modulator for producing an optical signal can be implemented by using a grating element. As a result, an optical transmission system can be constructed by utilizing various optical functional elements in the optical transmission system.

Claims

1. A method of manufacturing a grating element, wherein a poling process is performed by irradiating a plurality of regions of a glass optical waveguide at prescribed intervals with ultra-violet rays to change a refractive index at the regions irradiated with ultra-violet rays, and to impart optical non-linearity to said regions, thereby periodically forming regions with optical non-linearity at said optical waveguide to complete a grating element.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein

said glass optical waveguide is a core section

surrounded by a clad section of a glass optical fiber, and

said poling process is performed by irradiating the core section with ultra-violet rays in a periodic intensity in a direction perpendicular to a direction of light propagation. 5

3. A grating element, wherein optical non-linearity of at least 1 pm/V is periodically imparted as an electro-optical coefficient to a core section of a glass optical fiber at prescribed intervals. 10

4. The grating element according to claim 3, wherein a pair of electrodes are formed sandwiching the core section of said glass optical fiber. 15

5. The grating element according to claim 4, wherein said grating element comprises a connector section including 20

a core section connected to an end of said grating element for guiding light propagating through said core section of said optical fiber, and a connecting electrode section having one end connected to said pair of electrodes and the other end outwardly extending in a radial direction. 25

6. The grating element according to claim 4 or 5, wherein 30

a prescribed voltage can be applied across said pair of electrodes, and application of the voltage across said electrodes is controlled to function as a wavelength switch for switching on/off the light propagating through the core section. 35

7. A wavelength selective device, comprising: 40

a wavelength selective element having a periodically imparted optical non-linearity of at least 1 pm/V as an electro-optic coefficient at prescribed intervals in a core section of a glass optical fiber including a pair of electrodes formed to sandwich said core section; and voltage adjusting means for applying any voltage in an adjustable manner to said pair of electrodes in said wavelength selective element; wherein light beams of a plurality of wavelengths are introduced to obtain a light beam of a prescribed wavelength. 45 50

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8. An optical wavelength selective method, comprising the steps of:

introducing light beams of a plurality of wavelengths to a wavelength selective element having periodically imparted optical non-linearity of at least 1 pm/V as an electro-optic coefficient at prescribed intervals in a core section of a glass optical fiber including a pair of electrodes formed to sandwich said core section; and

applying a voltage corresponding to a wavelength to select to the pair of electrodes of said wavelength selective element so as to obtain light of the selected wavelength.

9. An optical signal transmitting system for transmitting a plurality of optical signals derived by modulating light beams of a plurality of wavelengths through a single optical fiber and selecting an optical signal of a prescribed wavelength among the plurality of optical signals transmitted through the optical fiber by an optical wavelength selective device to demodulate the derived optical signal, wherein

said optical wavelength selective device includes:

a wavelength selective element having a periodically imparted optical non-linearity of at least 1 pm/V as an electro-optic coefficient at prescribed intervals in a core section of a glass optical fiber including a pair of electrodes formed to sandwich said core section; and voltage adjusting means for applying any voltage in an adjustable manner to the pair of electrodes in said wavelength selective element; wherein

light beams of a plurality of wavelengths are introduced to said wavelength selective element to obtain a light beam of a prescribed wavelength.

Fig. 1

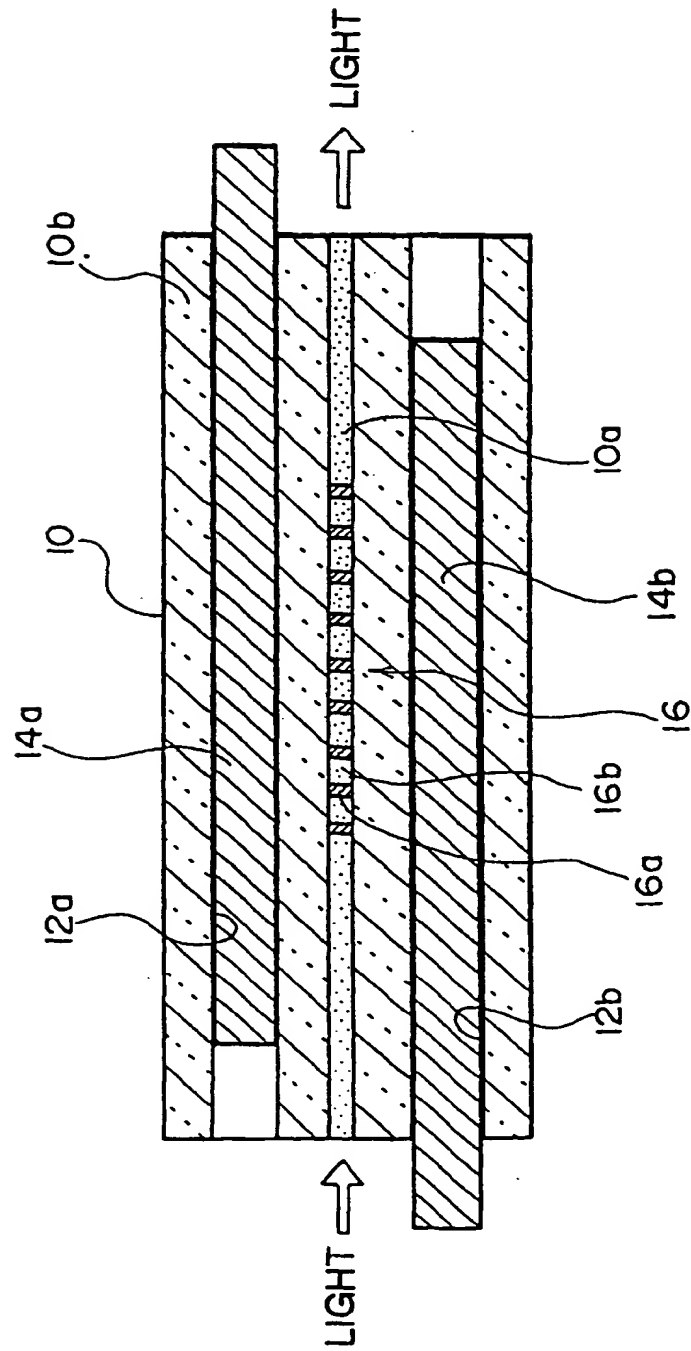


Fig. 2

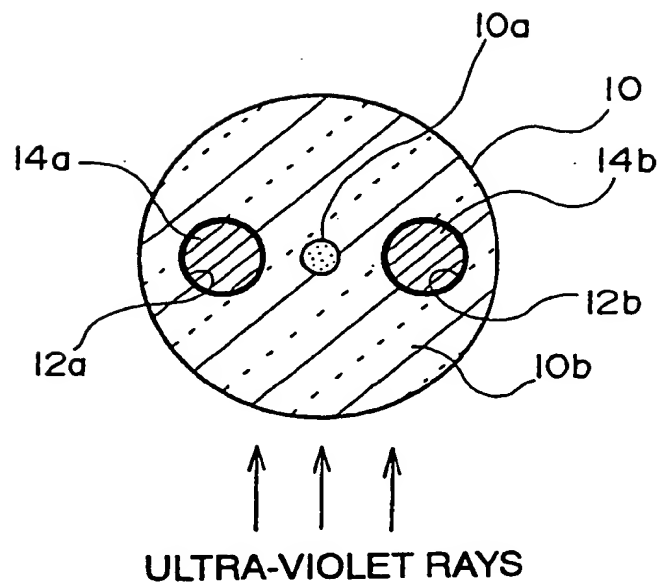


Fig. 3

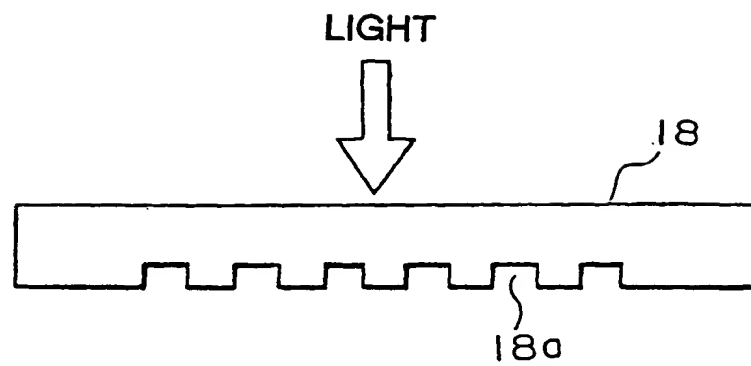


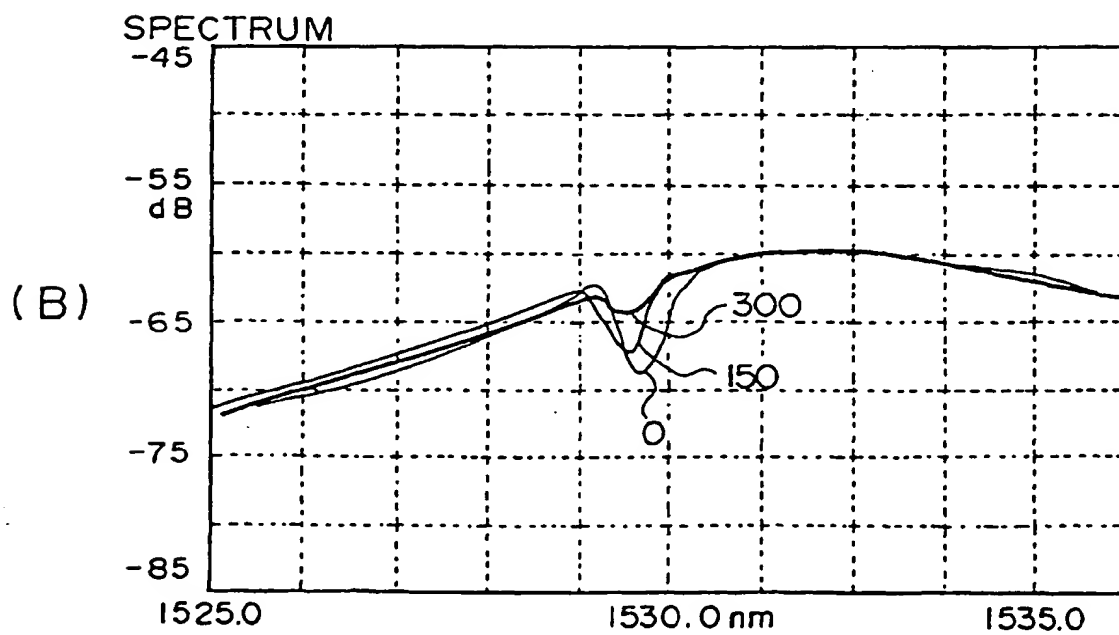
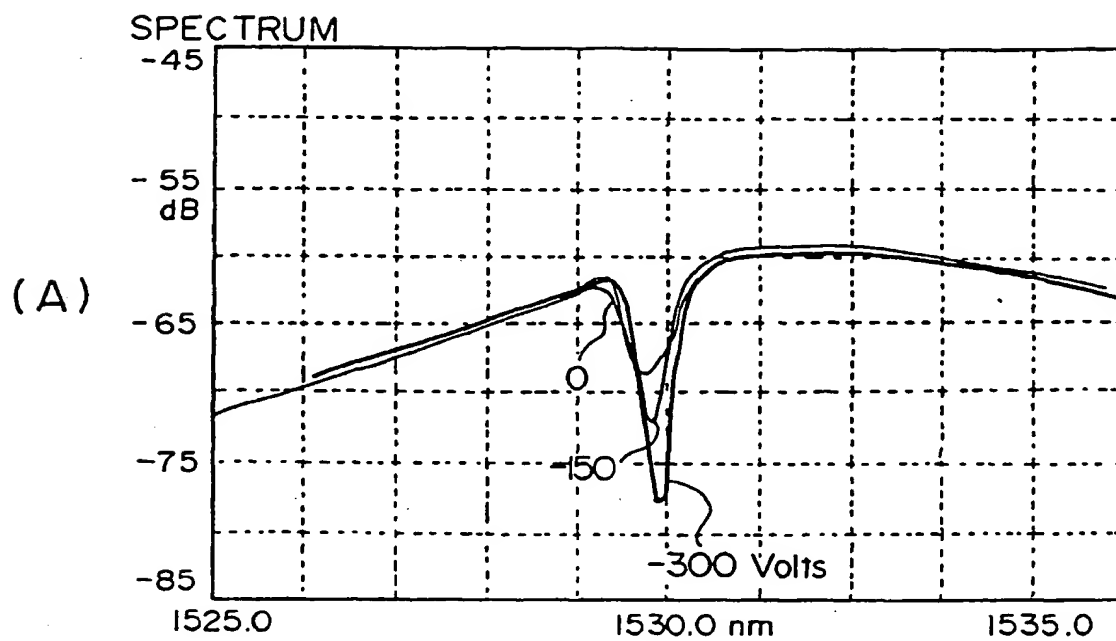
Fig. 4

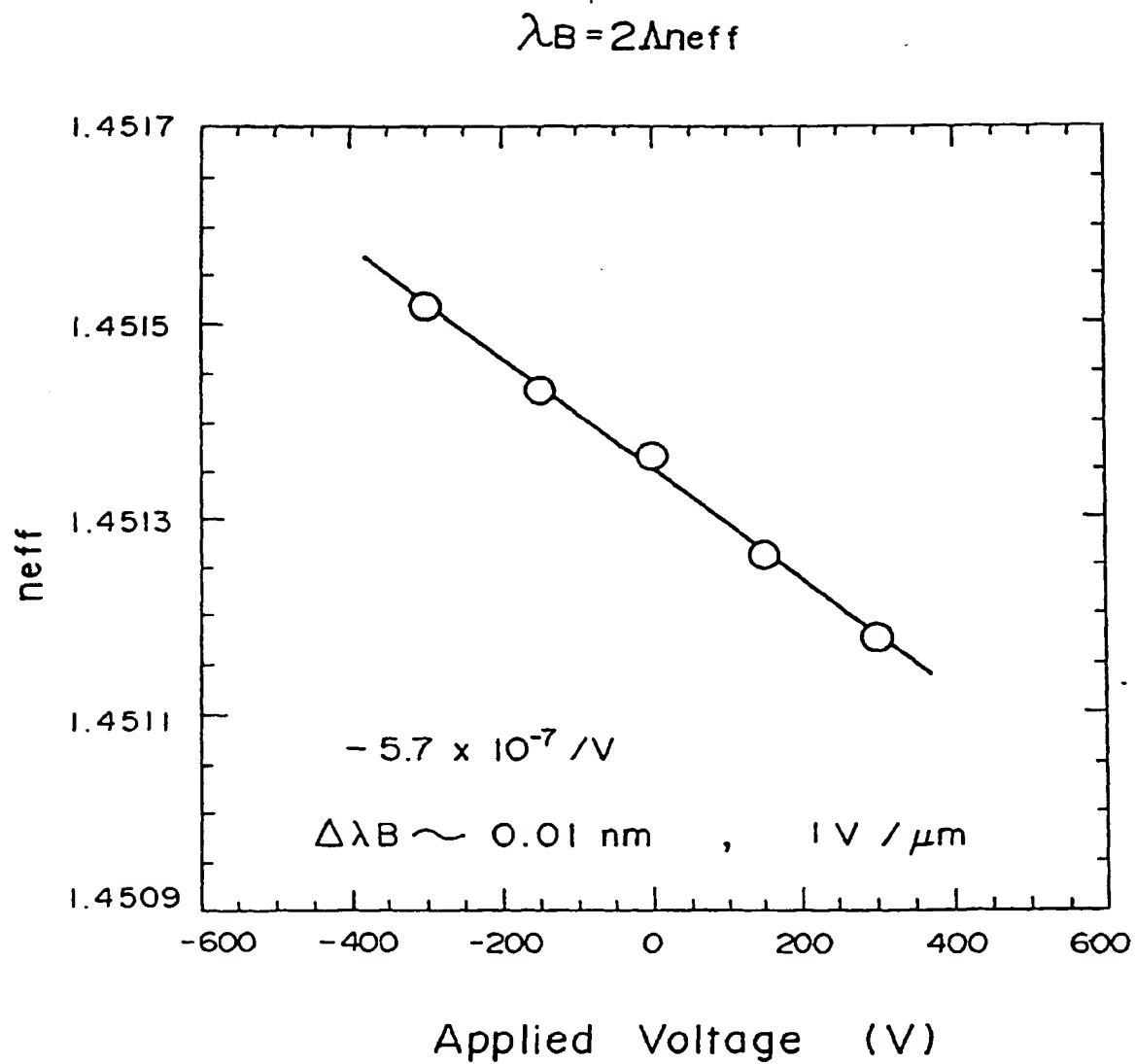
Fig. 5

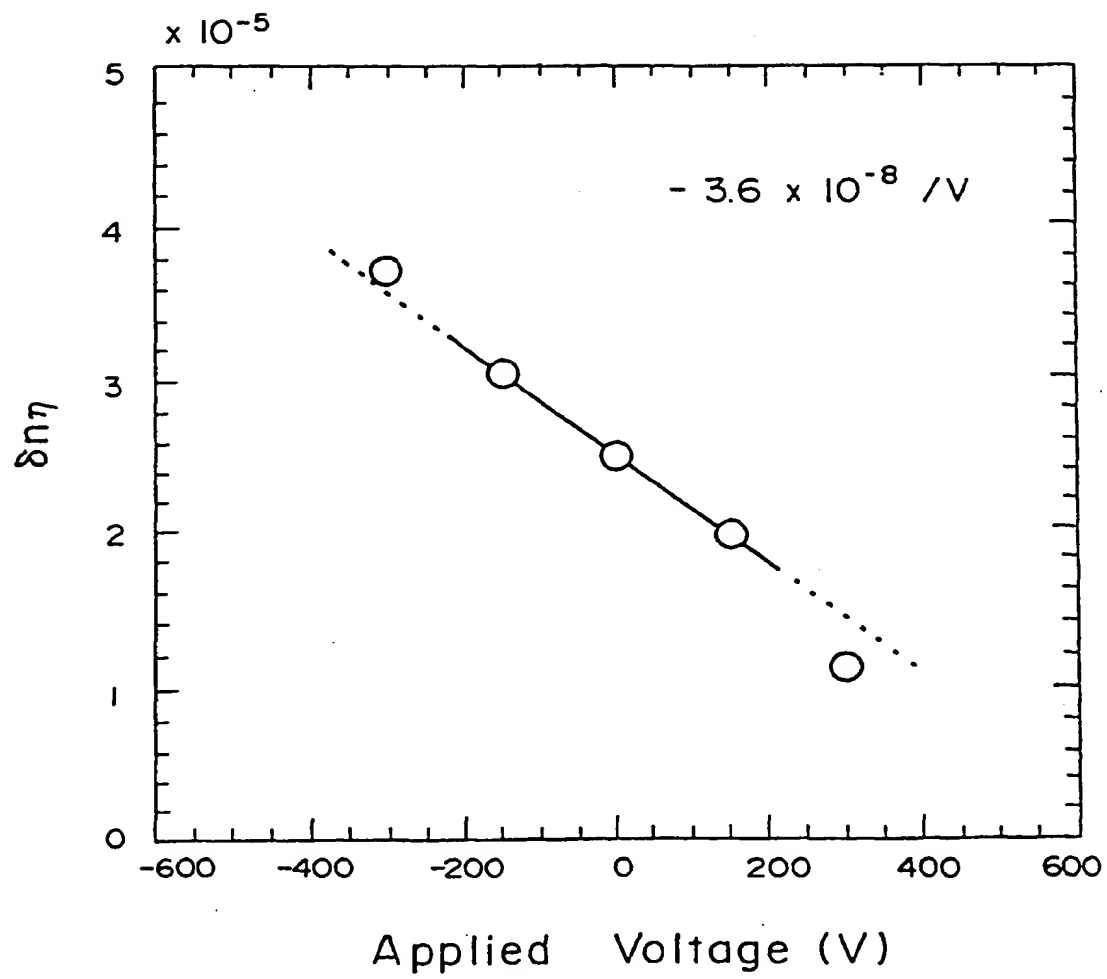
Fig. 6

Fig. 7

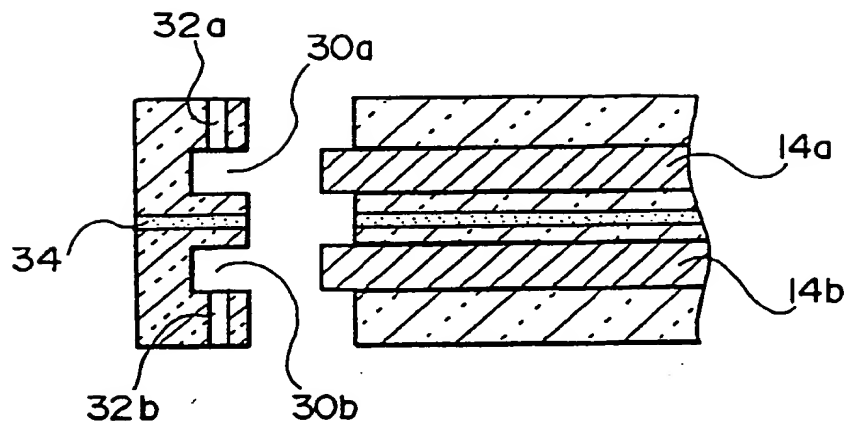


Fig. 8

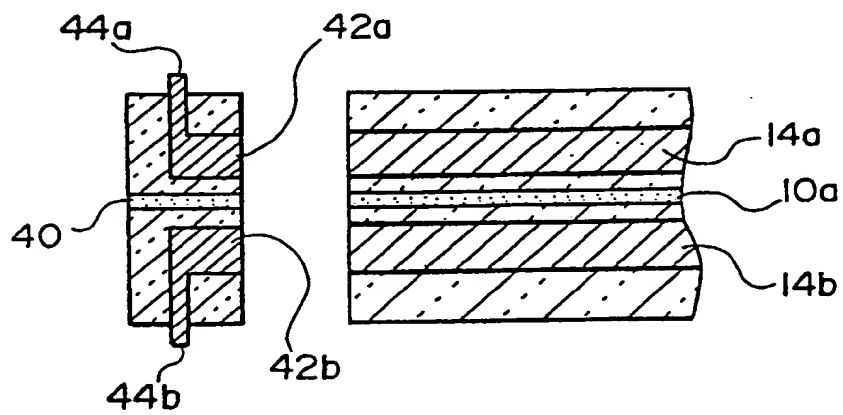


Fig. 9

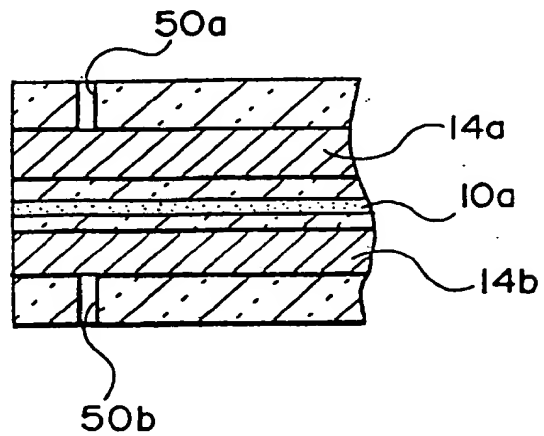
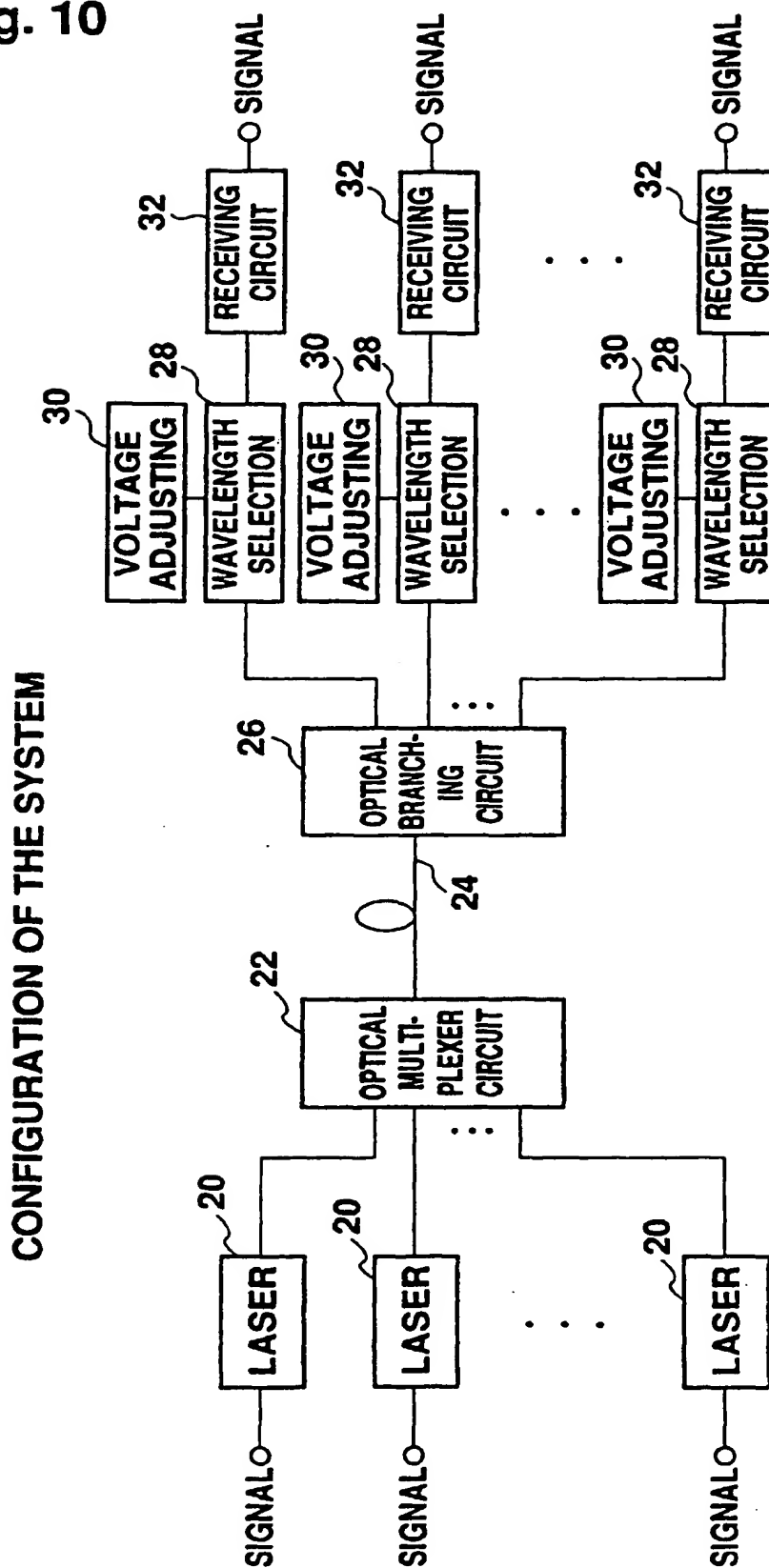


Fig. 10



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP97/02808

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl⁶ G02F1/01

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int. Cl⁶ G02F1/01-1/035, G02B5/18, G02B5/32, G02B6/00, 306,
H04B10/00-10/28, H04J14/00-14/02

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1926 - 1997
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971 - 1997
Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994 - 1997

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

JOIS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y A	WO, 96/16344, A1 (The University of Sydney), May 30, 1996 (30. 05. 96), Pages 8 to 10 & EP, 792473, A1	1-4, 6 7 - 9 5
X Y A	Optical Fiber Communication '95 Technical Digest Vol. 8 Postconference Edition, (03. 1995), T. Fujiwara et al., "UV-ecited poling and electrically tunable bragg gratings in a germanosilicate fiber" pp. 347-350	1-4, 6 7 - 9 5
A	JP, 3-504772, A (Plessey Overseas Ltd.), October 17, 1991 (17. 10. 91), Figs. 6 to 8 & WO, 90/08970, A1	1 - 9
Y A	JP, 4-132427, A (Canon Inc.), May 6, 1992 (06. 05. 92), Columns 3, 4; Fig. 5 (Family: none)	7 - 9 5
Y A	EP, 714182, A2 (Pirelli CAVI S.p.A), May 29, 1996 (29. 05. 96), Fig. 1 & JP, 8-223137, A	7 - 9 5

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

October 22, 1997 (22. 10. 97)

Date of mailing of the international search report

November 5, 1997 (05. 11. 97)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

Japanese Patent Office

Facsimile No.

Authorized officer

Telephone No.

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Fig. 1

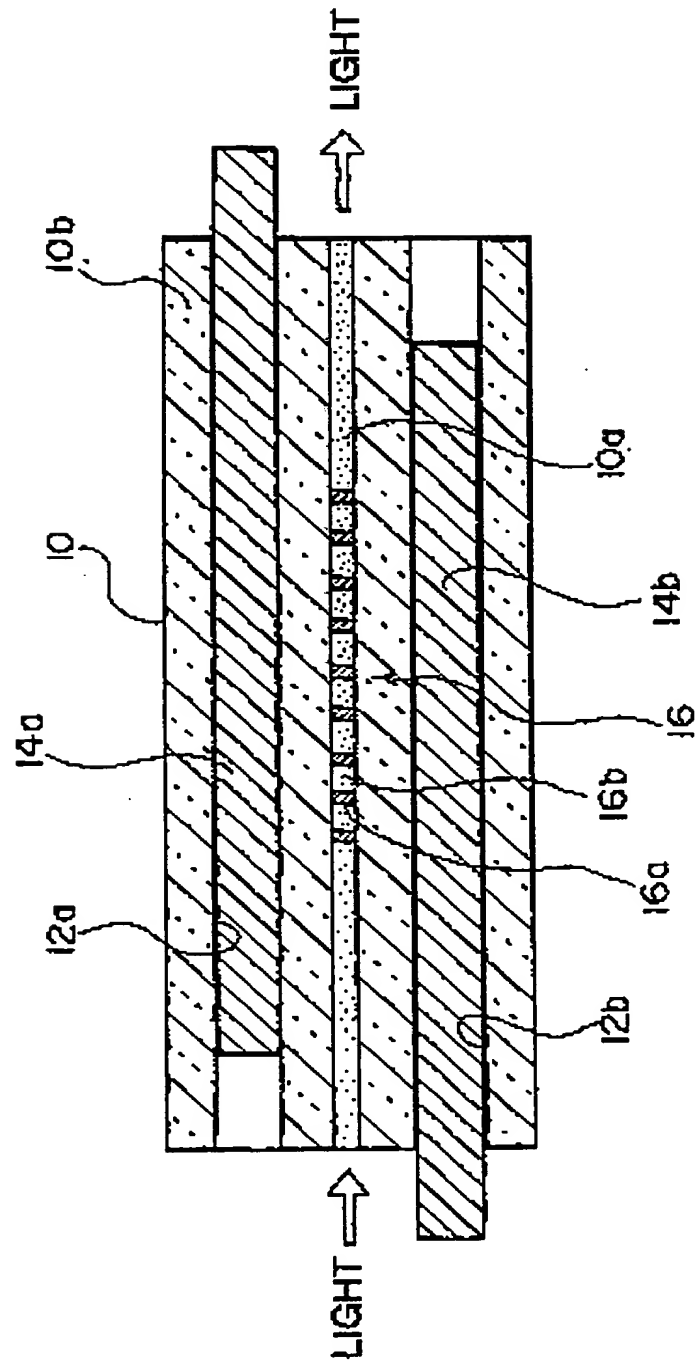


Fig. 2

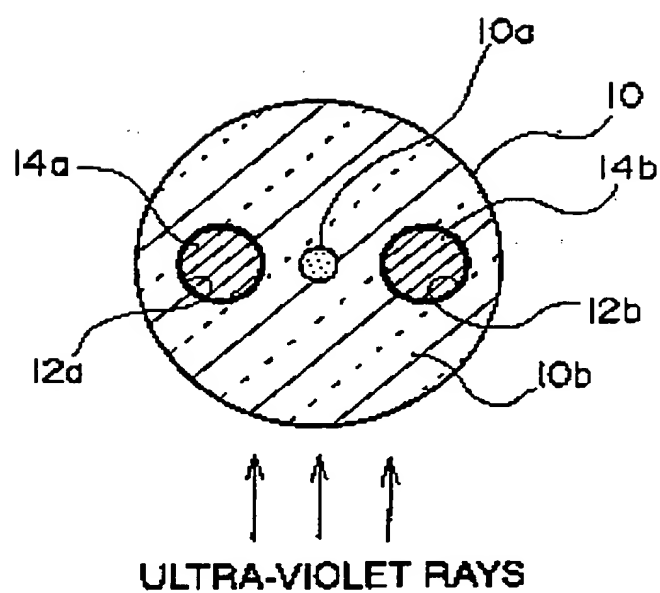


Fig. 3

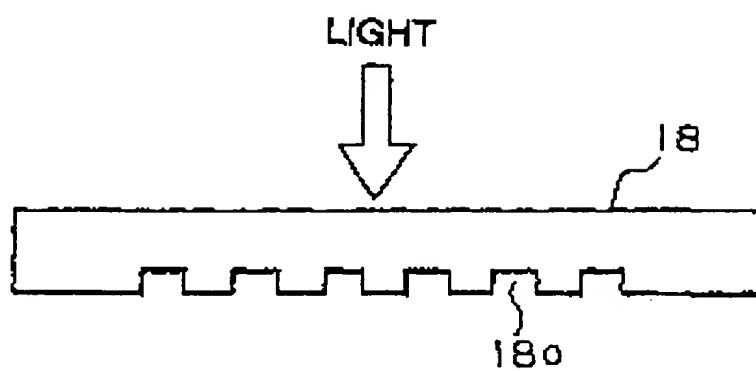


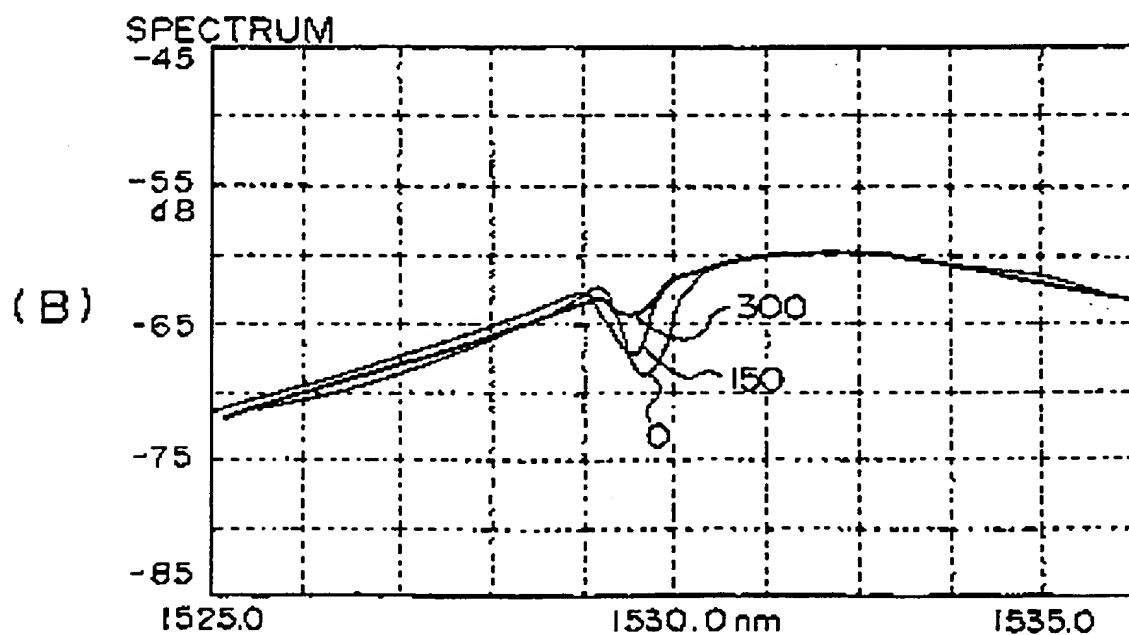
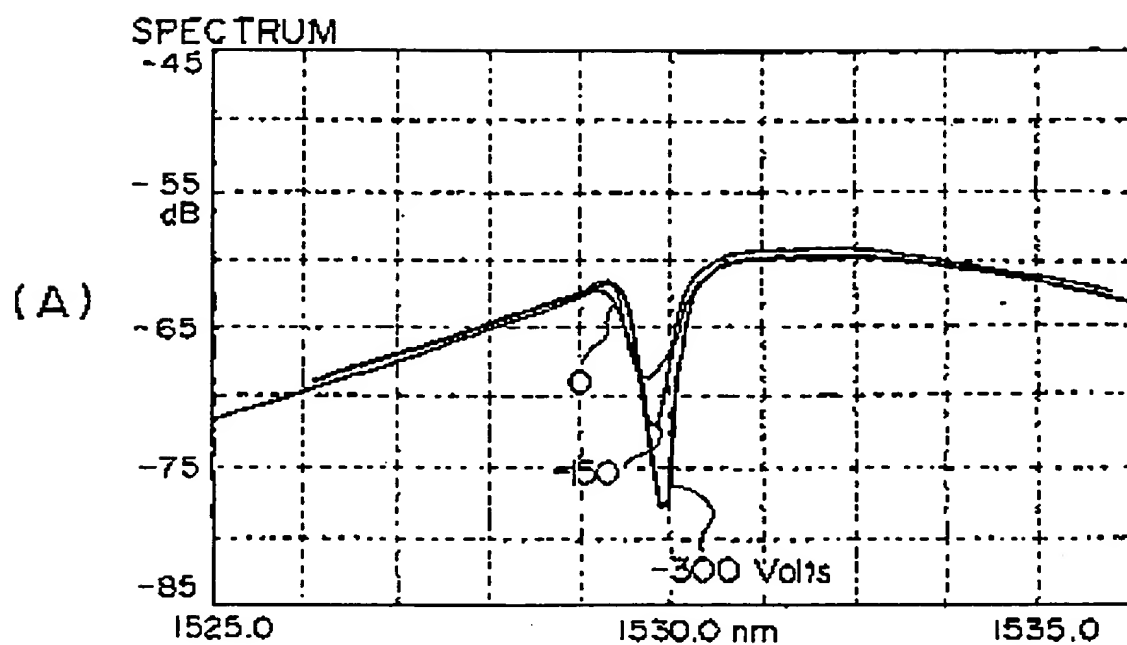
Fig. 4

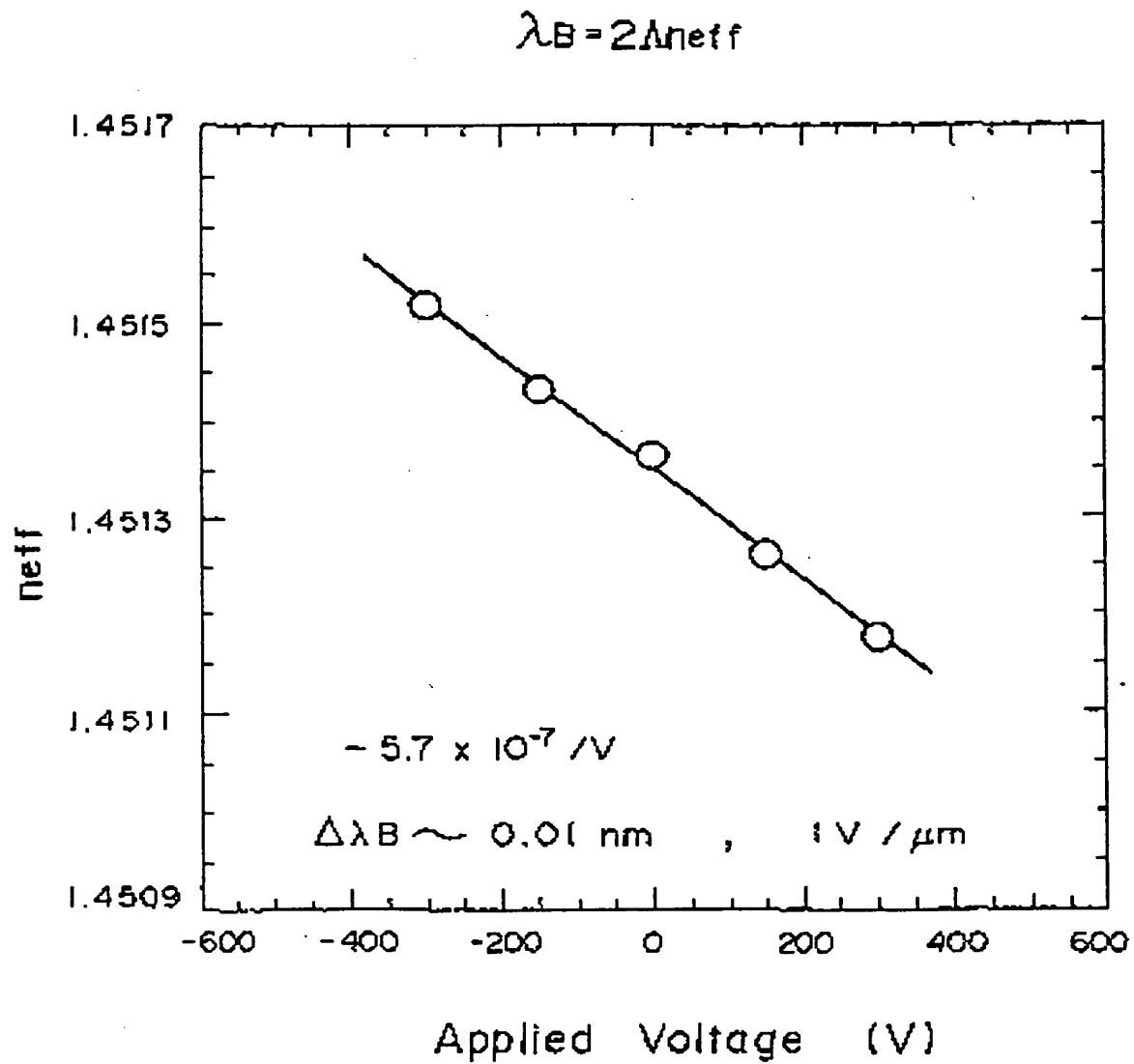
Fig. 5

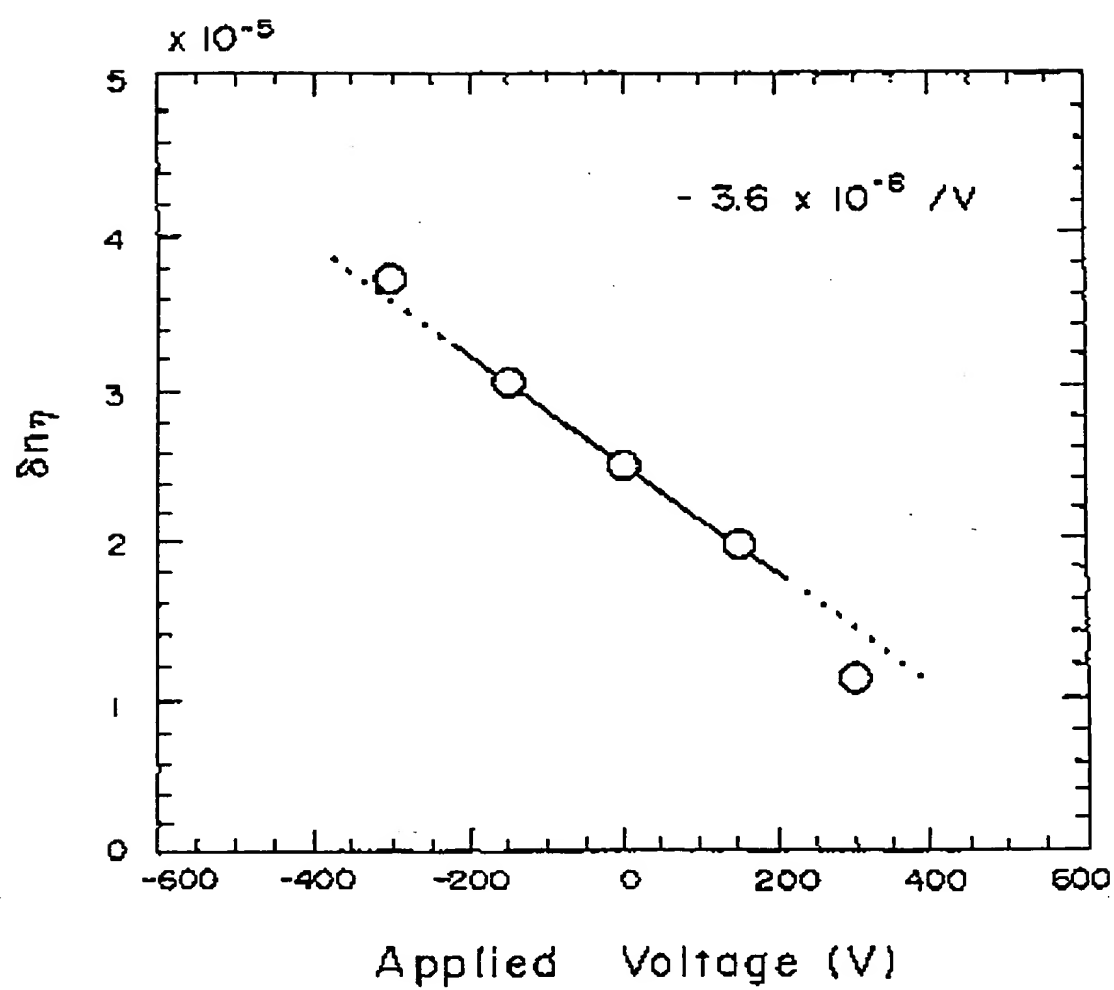
Fig. 6

Fig. 7

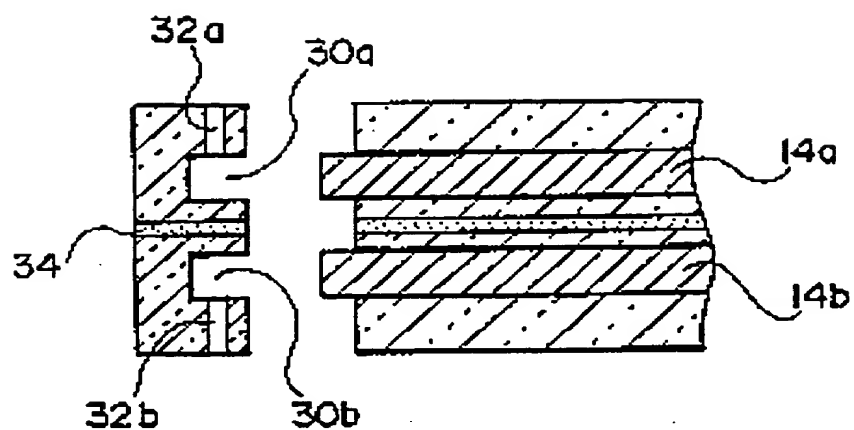


Fig. 8

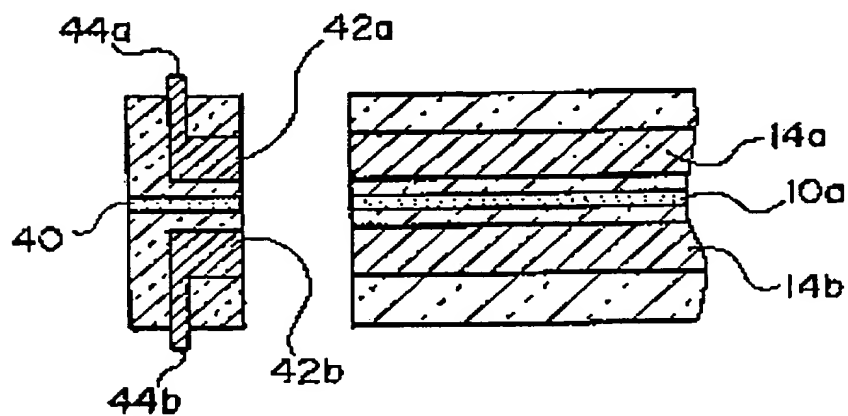


Fig. 9

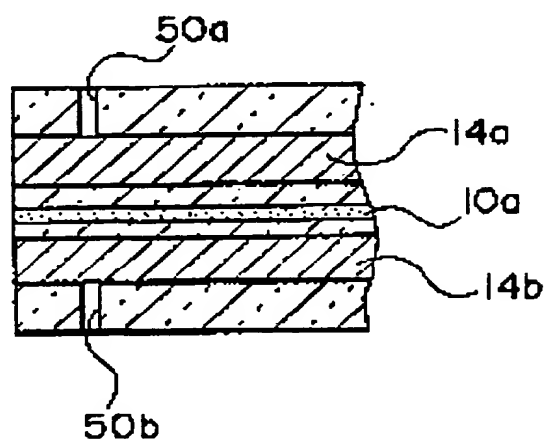


Fig. 10

CONFIGURATION OF THE SYSTEM

